

The Newberg-Dundee Police Department wants to encourage the safe sharing of roadways by motor vehicles, bicyclists, and pedestrians in our community. There are many factors involved in every traffic crash. We hope that these reminders will help in reducing these sometimes tragic events.

Newberg-Dundee police officers routinely investigate vehicle crashes with bicyclists that are caused by the motor vehicle operator failing to stop when emerging from an alley, driveway, or building. Oregon law requires vehicles to stop before entering or crossing a road, even if there are no signal lights or signs posted. If there is a sidewalk, drivers must stop before reaching it and also yield to pedestrians and bicyclists.

According to the Oregon Driver Manual, the other most common driver errors that contribute to vehicle vs. bicycle crashes include:

- Turning left without noticing an oncoming bicyclist.
- Turning right at an intersection or driveway without checking for a bicyclist on the right who is continuing straight ahead or a bicyclist traveling in the wrong direction toward the vehicle.
- Opening a vehicle door into the path of a bicyclist or swerving into a bicycle lane.
- Trucks, RVs, and vehicles pulling trailers with wide mirrors passing too close to a bicyclist.

Bicyclists are vulnerable users of the road. The Newberg-Dundee Police Department encourages bicyclists of all ages to wear protective headgear when riding. Oregon law requires helmets to be worn by bicycle riders and passengers under 16 years old. Parents and guardians of children under 16 can be held responsible for a child failing to wear protective headgear. Helmets for children under 16 years old are also required when using scooters, skateboards, and skates.

Bicyclists are considered vehicles in the State of Oregon. They have the same rights, duties, and responsibilities as vehicle drivers. Common bicyclist violations that contribute to traffic crashes are:

- Failing to ride in the direction of traffic and as close to the right side of the road as is practical.
- Riding without the required headlight and red rear reflector during times of limited visibility.
- Failing to obey traffic control devices.
- Failing to use standard arm signals.

Pedestrians are perhaps the most vulnerable users of our roads. Vehicles and bicyclists are required to yield to pedestrians at crosswalks (marked and unmarked), however pedestrians must not suddenly leave a position of safety and cross into the path of a vehicle if it is so close that it is an immediate hazard.

Vehicles cannot stop instantly. For example, a standard passenger car driving at 20mph on clean, dry, level pavement will take 66ft. to stop in an emergency braking scenario. Assuming a 1.5 second reaction time, the vehicle will travel 44ft. while the driver reacts to the emergency ahead and begins to apply the

brakes. It will travel another 20ft. in actual braking distance before stopping. Using the same formula, the same car traveling at 60mph takes 315ft. (about the length of a football field) to stop.

Pedestrians can improve their safety and obey the law by adhering to the following:

- Use crosswalks at intersections.

- Yield to traffic on the road if crossing at a location other than a crosswalk.

- Stop, look, and listen before crossing any street.

- Walk on the sidewalk when possible. If there is no sidewalk, walk on the left shoulder facing oncoming traffic.

- Walk as far to the edge of the roadway as possible.

- Yield to vehicles when there is no sidewalk or shoulder.

Please contact the Newberg-Dundee Police Department Traffic Team at (503) 538-8321 regarding any traffic questions or concerns in the community.

Senior Officer Huntley Miller

Police Motorcycle Operator

Newberg-Dundee Police Department

Sources: Oregon Revised Statues 2012 & Oregon Driver Manual 2012-2013